



April 25, 2013

Senator Jim Honeyford
107 Irv Newhouse Building
PO Box 40415
Olympia, WA 98504-0415

Dear Senator Honeyford:

On April 18, 2013, the local elected leaders of the bipartisan Pierce County Regional Council voted unanimously to support full funding for the **Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration** (PSAR) fund. We also voted to support the **Coordinated Investment for Puget Sound Floodplains** located in the House Capital Budget. These two investments will stimulate the local economy, create more than 100 direct jobs, and improve the health of Puget Sound.

The Pierce County Regional Council is a bipartisan coalition of local governments representing 23 cities and towns, Pierce County, two transit agencies, the Port of Tacoma, and over 808,000 citizens of the State of Washington.

PSAR is Puget Sound's #1 Capital Budget priority this session. The proposed funding level by Governor Inslee at \$80 million, would implement several top priority projects in Pierce County. These investments would result in multi-benefit outcomes for endangered species, flood hazard protection, habitat restoration, and floodplain reconnection.

We sincerely appreciate the funding already identified for PSAR in both the Senate and House budgets; however we have concerns that those funding levels are insufficient to implement science-based watershed plans developed by local communities. It is important to know these projects were prioritized by a broad regional coalition of watershed representatives, including: local jurisdictions, non-profits, Tribes, environmental groups, business and agriculture, and state and federal agency representatives.

In addition to fully funding PSAR, the Pierce County Regional Council supports the Coordinated Investment for Puget Sound Floodplains. This investment includes the City of Orting's Calistoga Setback Levee project. The 1.5-mile project is shovel ready, and has a wide-range of support as it provides and enhances endangered species habitat as well as flood controls. All of the Puyallup River downstream cities and facilities including Sumner, Puyallup, Fife, Tacoma, the Port of Tacoma, and Interstate 5 would benefit from the increased river capacity of a setback levee during flooding events.

Both funding sources will help to restore the overall health of the Puget Sound. Please support these two key priorities and be part of restoring our nation's second largest estuary and a vital economic engine for Washington State.

Sincerely,

Glenn E. Hull Jr., Chair
Pierce County Regional Council